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manner. The results of such a course of study will not compare unfavorably with those of the old curriculum. "Donnez-nous, en un mot, un enseignement secondaire sans grec et latin, et vos nouveaux bacheliers pourront exhiber leur diplôme sans en rougir."

The reasons assigned by M. Frary for giving more prominence to the modern languages are unanswerable. In themselves they are valuable disciplinary studies. They embody literatures which for richness of content and value for modern life are vastly superior to the writings of the Greeks and Romans. And above all, they are necessary in order to understand fully the thought and progress of the present day. The various nations of Christendom are in rivalry with one another in the fields of knowledge and commerce; and to remain ignorant of what others are doing—as was formerly the case in France to a notable degree—is to place a country at a great disadvantage.

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#### BRIEF MENTION.

The hitherto insufficient apparatus for the elementary study of Old French is happily receiving frequent re-inforcements of late. In addition to Constans' 'Chrestomathie de l'ancien français' (Paris, Vieweg, 1884, with later supplement) and Clédât's 'Grammaire élémentaire de la vieille langue française' and 'Morceaux Choisis des vieux auteurs français'—of which we hope to give early reviews in the NOTES—M. Ferdinand Brunot, a colleague of Professor Clédât's in the Lyons Faculty, has recently brought out a 'Précis de grammaire historique de la langue française, avec une introduction sur les origines et le développement de cette langue' (Paris, Masson, 1887). This work forms a handsome and handy duodecimo volume of nearly 700 pages—bulky enough to contain a tolerably full sketch of historical French grammar, while still sufficiently succinct and inexpensive to be conveniently used as a class text-book and reference grammar. The introduction comprises an 'histoire générale de la langue française' in

something less than fifty pages; phonetics is treated in a brief but lucid manner in the next-following eighty pages, including two series of useful phonetic tables, the first presenting to the eye the leading facts in the history of the Latin sounds, the second proceeding, conversely, from the French as the point of departure; while to the 'lexique' is devoted a still longer division (ninety pages), in which the processes of word-derivation, composition and borrowing are suggestively presented and illustrated. The remainder of the volume is given up to the combined treatment of morphology and syntax, an arrangement which has its advantages for an elementary work. The grammar is richly supplied throughout with illustrative examples, which are translated whenever they would offer difficulty to a student acquainted only with Modern French. The book is not beyond the capacity of average learners, and is vastly superior to Brachet's grammar, not only in its far greater fulness, but also in being, in the main, well abreast of the more recent results of Romance philology; it differs from Clédât's, chiefly in that it covers the modern as well as the ancient stages of the language. Without any idea of making an exhaustive list, the following few slips in the matter of accuracy may be noted: p. 355, *néant* is explained as "composé de la négation et du participe présent latin du verbe être: *entem*." More carefully stated, Lat. *ens*, *entis* was an artificially formed noun, as if it were the *wanting* present participle of *sum*, used substantively.—p. 429, the form *avret* (*Cantilène de Sainte Eulalie*, 2) is correctly referred to Lat. *habuerat*, but mistranslated: "*Bel avret cors*" . . . Belle avait eu le corps." The few remnants of the Lat. pluperfect surviving in O. Fr. had already weakened to simple preterits.—p. 539, "*illuec* (illo loco);" read, Lat. adv. *illoc*.—p. 543, "*dunc* [*donc*] représente le latin *tunc*;" read, *donique*, cf. Wölfflin's *Archiv*, II. 103.—p. 545, "*encore* (lat. *hac hora*)." *Hac hora*, in the form *ha hora*, is probably the etymology of *ore*, *encore* being regarded as a compound of *enc* (adhuc?) and *ore*.—p. 550, the use of O. Fr. adverbial *par* in such examples as "*mult par est grant la feste*" is discussed, and its development aptly compared with that of *très* (Lat. *trans*); but no

mention is made of the Lat. prototype of this use occurring in compounds such as *perfacilis*, *perfervidus*, *perhorridus*, nor of its survival in the modern phrase, 'c'est *par trop* fort.' p. 547, "Tost, tôt (lat. *tostum*, brûlé, par allusion à la vitesse de la flamme?)." The idea seems to be rather that contained in the phrases "a hot chase," "hotly pursued," etc.

It will be in place to call attention here to a peculiar comment on this grammar which appeared in the N. Y. *Nation* of January 28, under the title of 'Some Recent Works on Etymology.' The *Nation* critic's remarks on the etymology of the affirmative *oui*, as given by Brunot and others, are so noteworthy as to deserve quotation at length. Animadverting on the "too little unanimity among the specialists of this branch," he says: "The simplest forms give rise to too many contradictory statements. A single example may serve to show how much uncertainty yet exists in regard to the derivation of the commonest words. It is not necessary to look in very old French grammars to find the word *oui*, yes, explained as being the past participle of the verb *ouïr*, to hear. Then came the more logical and historical explanation, which accounts for the old form of the word, *oïl*, deriving it from *hoc illud*. This is probably accepted now by 99 per cent. of those who, without being specially etymologists, have generally correct ideas on French derivations [?]. But of very late years the learned in phonetic changes have proved by analogy that the words *hoc illud* could never have given *oïl*, but only *oël*, so that one of them proposes as a solution the words *hoc illic* as the original of *oïl*. This etymology, for reasons which it would be pedantic to develop here, satisfies all the laws of letter changes from Latin to French. M. Clédat, in his 'Grammaire élémentaire de la vieille langue française,' already noticed in the *Nation*, rather shirks the question, although lately, in his edition of the 'Song of Roland,' he proposes *o* (Lat. *hoc*) and the personal pronoun *il*. In this M. Brunot follows him; so that, according to him, the answers to the questions, 'Do you go?' 'Does he go?' would have been *o je* and *o il*, as the answer to 'Do we go?' would have been *o nous*; *o il* taking later the place of all the other forms. Hence, in view of all these

newly discovered "belles choses," the professional etymologist must feel like exclaiming with Molière's *Madelon*: 'Si l'on ignore ces choses, je ne donnerais pas un clou de tout l'esprit qu'on peut avoir.'" As a matter of fact, the etymology of *oui* which is here ascribed to Clédat and Brunot, was not only proposed, but established, by Professor Tobler just ten years ago, in Kuhn's *Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung*, III. 423, (neue Folge) 1877; and in O. Fr. the answer to the question "Do you go?" not only "would have been," but was, *o je* (cf. for an example, Bartsch, Chrest., p. 296, l. 42). In the note in *Romania* (as far back as 1880) in which Professor Cornu calls attention to the fact that *illud* could only have given *el*, he speaks of Tobler's etymology as "admise aujourd'hui, je pense, par tous les romanistes."

More lately, March 31, the *Nation* reviewer, in his notice of Gröber's *Grundriss* (which, he says, "is calculated to embrace six good-sized volumes . . . and it is expected that the third number will form the completion of the first volume"—there are to be only six numbers, comprised in two volumes), tells us that "on page 149 Gröber mentions as the end and scope of Romance philology "scientific research concerning Romance speech, of which the origin has, in the lapse of centuries, become incomprehensible." Not recalling any such a remarkable statement in the scholarly treatise in question, we turn to the page cited, and find, as the nearest approach to the above "quotation," the following sentence: "Die 'Forschung über die unverständlich gewordene und unverstandene romanische Rede' gipfelt in der Erkenntniss der Entwicklung künstlerisch gestalteter romanischer Rede und romanischer Sprache," etc. Finally, we are told that the work "contains all the *literary quotations* [italics ours] needful to those who desire to undertake studies subsidiary to the information contained in the 'Grundriss.'" By "literary quotations" is here apparently meant "bibliographical references." It may justly be said that the time has come when the *Nation* should furnish its readers with more reasonable opinions and less groping information in the domain of Romance philological criticism.

'Studies in Italian Literature, classical and modern,' by Catherine Mary Phillimore (London, 1887) is the title of a collection of papers previously published in reviews, on the Paradiso, Petrarch, Tasso, the Italian Drama, Manzoni, etc. The various subjects are treated in an easy, attractive way, showing the deep interest of the author in her work. After the perilous point of the Medici period is passed the book is fairly reliable. The scientific value of the essays preceding can be inferred from the evident ignorance of all work done in the field for ten years at least. Symonds is not even cited, much less Bartoli and Gaspary. For example, De Sade and "above all Baudelli" (whose book was printed, according to the author, in 1837) are considered the authorities on Petrarch. Therefore, we find a definite Laura, a serious view of Petrarch's political influence on the Pope and Emperor, not a word of his frantic struggles to obtain the laurel crown, the *Africa* relegated to the background among his Latin works, and the following summary of the man: "His personal character was of a most amiable kind. He neither desired nor despised riches. Without conceit he knew his own worth. He loved fame, but was not eager in the pursuit of it," etc. (p. 57). And all this might have been saved by the scholarship necessary to open the Encyclopædia Britannica to the article "Petrarch!" It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that the first chapter on the Drama does not fall far short of being worthless. How the Drama started the author has no clear notion: by the "'Ludi,' as the mystery plays were called" (p. 132) one is led to think of the Laude; Mussato's "Ecclesinis" may be a typographical error for Eccerinus; of the Divozione and Sacra Rappresentazione there is no mention. The misfortune of such work is that it is not negative in effect, but actually misleading, and that, too, with the best intentions on the part of the author.

*Deutsch-Americanishes Magazin* is the title of a new German quarterly, edited by H. A. Rattermann (Cincinnati, S. Rosenthal & Co.), to which we take pleasure in calling the attention of those interested in the history and language of the Germans in America. Mr. Ratter-

mann long ago established his reputation as an investigator in this special field, and we doubt not that the present enterprise will contribute much towards showing the important influence of the German element, for the past two hundred years and more, upon the material and intellectual development of our country. The two numbers already issued contain valuable essays on biographical and literary topics from the accomplished editor. A special feature of the 'Magazin' is its publication of important historical documents, which are edited with philological care and will prove of great value for the study of German American dialects and their literature.

A year or two ago, Mr. Arsène Darmesteter, Professor at the Sorbonne, was invited to deliver before a London audience a short series of lectures on questions of philology. The little book which appears as the outcome of these lectures,\* is necessarily elementary, but contains much that is suggestive even to the more advanced student. A simple, clear exposition of facts (well-known though they be), coming from such a master of the subject, must always be of great value. Mr. D. takes for his theme the changes in meaning between the radical word and those derived from it, and the various causes which bring about these changes. He selects as his illustrative examples almost entirely Latin primitives with their French derivatives, and the changes in French words themselves; and does his work with that clearness, directness and attractive arrangement of examples, which is so characteristic of the best French workmanship. Some of his lists of words and idiomatic expressions (e. g., pp. 55, 101, 150 et seq.) are charming reading in themselves to any student of French. Teachers will find the book useful as auxiliary reading for beginners in Romance philology: it is fully as engaging as Brachet's Introduction. The translation, which was made from the original manuscript, reads very smoothly, the rendering of the French examples and idiomatic phrases in particular being extremely accurate and neat. Follow-

\* *The Life of Words as the Symbols of Ideas*, by ARSÈNE DARMESTETER. London, Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1886, pp. 173.

ing the above, an edition in French, from the author's revised manuscript, has just appeared under the title, 'La vie des mots étudiée dans leurs significations.' Paris, Delagrave, pp. XII, 212.

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### PERSONAL.

Professor Hugo Schuchardt (University of Graz, Austria) has received permission from the Government to discontinue his lectures for the present term and has gone to South France (Provence) and to the Basque Provinces of North Spain for the purpose of making special researches into the languages of these districts.

Mr. W. R. Morfill, of Oxford, England, is engaged in writing a Serbian Grammar for the Series of 'Simplified Grammars' which Messrs. Trübner & Co. (London) are now publishing. It is to be followed, in this series, by Bulgarian, Chekh and Russian Grammars by the same author, whose object is to write them on scientific principles, according to those laid down in the great work of Miklosich, *Vergleichende Grammatik der Slavischen Sprachen*. The writer expresses the hope that they will be useful to the student of comparative philology no less than to the special Slavonic scholar. Mr. Morfill will undertake, later, to prepare a Russian Grammar and Reading Book for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press.

Professor L. Clédat (Faculté des Lettres de Lyon, France) has in press the first number of his '*Revue des Patois*, recueil trimestriel consacré à l'étude des patois et anciens dialectes romans de la France et des régions limitrophes,' and, in the announcement to this initial livraison, he gives us an attractive list of collaborateurs, among whom may be mentioned, Brunot, Chabaneau, Joret, Monaci, Philippon, du Puits-pelu, Raynaud, Thomas. Subscription price, 15 francs a year. In connection with this undertaking, it may be well to state that we have received the announcement also of a *Revue des patois gallo-romains* to be edited by Professor Gilliéron, of the École pratique des Hautes Études, at Paris. We regret that these

two enterprises could not be merged into one, so as to unite the efforts of dialectologists in a single channel of publication.

Dr. Emil Hausknecht, until recently Professor of French and English in the Falk Realgymnasium in Berlin, has been called to the position of Professor of Pedagogics in the Imperial Japanese University at Tokio. Dr. Hausknecht reached the scene of his new labors in January of the present year, and was engaged until April in studying the schools and school-system of the Empire. This work he will continue in the summer vacation, by a tour of inspection through the provinces. During the present semester he will lecture on pedagogical subjects and conduct the exercises of a pedagogical seminary, at the University. Dr. Hausknecht's well-known success as a teacher, and instructor of 'Probekandidaten,' in one of the foremost real-gymnasias in Germany, together with his practical knowledge of the educational systems of France and England (in both of which countries he enjoyed a long residence), and his own high attainments as an original scholar, have especially fitted him for a career of usefulness in his present important position. For his doctor's degree, which was obtained at the University of Berlin in 1879, Mr. Hausknecht presented a dissertation entitled 'Ueber sprache und quellen des mittellenglischen heldengedichts vom Sowdan of Babylon.' Since that time he has published articles on kindred subjects in *Anglia* and *Herrig's Archiv*; and in 1885 appeared his critical edition of 'Floris and Blancheflur: mittellenglisches gedicht aus dem 13. jahrhundert nebst litterarischer untersuchung und einem abriß über die verbreitung der sage in der europäischen litteratur.'

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### JOURNAL NOTICES.

ROMANIA NOS. 58-59.—MEYER, Paul. *Notice d'un ms. messin* (Montpellier 164 et Libri 96).—MOREL-FATIO, A. *Mélanges de littérature Catalane*. III. Le livre de Courtoisie.—MEYER, Paul. *Les Manuscrits français de Cambridge*. II. Bibliothèque de l'Université.—PICOT, E. *Le monologue dramatique dans l'ancien théâtre français*.—MUSSAFIA, A. *Sul metro di due componimenti di Filippo de Beaumanoir* ed. Suchier.—PHILIPON, E.